

Introduced by Senator Jackson

(Coauthors: Senators Allen, Block, Cannella, Fuller, Galgiani, Glazer, Hall, Hertzberg, Hill, Leno, Leyva, Monning, Pavley, and Wieckowski)

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March 30, 2016

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 123—Relative to sexual assault.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 123, as introduced, Jackson. Sexual Assault Awareness Month: Denim Day California.

This measure would designate the month of April 2016 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and would recognize April 27, 2016, as Denim Day California.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, In 2014, California rape crisis centers provided
2 direct crisis intervention services to 31,781 individuals, provided
3 7,389 sexual assault forensic examinations, and provided
4 community education services for almost 20,000 people; and
5 WHEREAS, Women, children, and men are all victims of sexual
6 assault, and it is estimated that nearly one in two women and one
7 in five men experience sexual violence other than rape throughout
8 their lifetime; and
9 WHEREAS, The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence
10 Survey reports that there are over 22 million survivors of rape

1 throughout the United States and 2 million of those survivors of
2 rape are currently living in the State of California; and

3 WHEREAS, Rape and sexual assault impact women, children,
4 and men of all racial, cultural, and economic backgrounds; and

5 WHEREAS, Women, children, and men suffer multiple types
6 of sexual violence, including acquaintance rape, stranger rape,
7 sexual assault by an intimate partner, gang rape, incest, serial rape,
8 ritual abuse, sexual harassment, child sexual molestation,
9 prostitution, pornography, and stalking; and

10 WHEREAS, Thousands of the most vulnerable children in our
11 state are being sexually exploited and assaulted for commercial
12 gain, and from 2011 to 2013, California's nine human trafficking
13 task forces identified 1,277 victims, 72 percent of whom are from
14 the United States; and

15 WHEREAS, According to the FBI, three of the nation's 13 High
16 Intensity Child Prostitution areas are located in California; and

17 WHEREAS, In addition to the immediate physical and emotional
18 costs, sexual assault may also have severe and long-lasting
19 consequences of posttraumatic stress disorder, substance abuse,
20 major depression, homelessness, eating disorders, and suicide; and

21 WHEREAS, The federal Centers for Disease Control and
22 Prevention has identified sexual assault as a significant, costly,
23 and preventable health issue; and

24 WHEREAS, A coalition of rape crisis centers and their allies,
25 known as the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault, has
26 emerged to directly confront this crisis with the cooperation of law
27 enforcement agencies, health care providers, institutions of higher
28 education, and other allied professionals from California's diverse
29 communities; and

30 WHEREAS, It is our responsibility to support all rape survivors
31 by treating them with dignity, compassion, and respect; and

32 WHEREAS, It is important to recognize the compassion and
33 dedication of the individuals involved in this effort, applaud their
34 commitment, and increase public understanding of this significant
35 problem; and

36 WHEREAS, It is important to recognize the strength, courage,
37 and challenges of the victims and survivors of sexual assault and
38 their families and friends as they struggle to cope with the reality
39 of sexual assault; and

1 WHEREAS, It is important to recognize that not all victims of
2 sexual assault survive, either at the time of the assault or later, due
3 to the horrific long-term trauma that sexual assault often inflicts
4 upon victims; and

5 WHEREAS, There are rape prevention and education efforts
6 underway throughout California to challenge the societal myths
7 and behaviors that perpetuate rape and to engage communities in
8 a common goal of ending sexual assault; and

9 WHEREAS, It is crucially important to hold perpetrators
10 responsible for sexual attacks, and to prevent sexual violence at
11 every opportunity; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1998, the Italian Supreme Court overturned the
13 conviction of a man who sexually assaulted an 18-year-old woman
14 after the court determined that, “because the victim wore very,
15 very tight jeans, she had to help him remove them, and by removing
16 the jeans it was no longer rape but consensual sex”; and

17 WHEREAS, Enraged by the court decision, within a matter of
18 hours, the women in the Italian Parliament launched into immediate
19 action and protested by wearing jeans to work; and

20 WHEREAS, Nations and states throughout the world have
21 followed the lead of the Italian Parliament by designating their
22 own “Denim Day” to raise public awareness about rape and sexual
23 assault; and

24 WHEREAS, Harmful attitudes about rape and sexual assault
25 allow these crimes to persist and allow survivors to be revictimized
26 through victim-blaming attitudes and unresponsive government
27 systems; and

28 WHEREAS, California is a national leader within the judicial,
29 criminal justice, medical, rape crisis, and health communities in
30 promoting victim-centered approaches to victims of crime; now,
31 therefore, be it

32 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
33 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature designates the month of
34 April 2016 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month; and be it further

35 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes April 27, 2016, as
36 Denim Day California and encourages everyone to wear jeans on
37 that day to help communicate the message that there is no excuse
38 for and never an invitation to commit, rape; and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 2 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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